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Prof. B. B. Warfield, in his article on The Prophecies of Paul (The Expositor, Dec., 1886), takes the ground that the reference of the passage to the Second Advent is not warranted. "It is indeed scarcely congruous to speak of a person as near in time; we speak of events or actions, times or seasons, as near, meaning it temporally, but when we say a person is near, we mean it inevitably of a space-relation. And the connection of the present verse points even more strongly in the same direction. Whether we construe it with what goes before, or with what comes after, — whether we read 'Let your gentleness be known to all men, [for] the Lord is near,' or 'The Lord is near, [therefore] be anxious for nothing, but in everything . . . let your requests be made known unto God,' — the reference to God's continual nearness to the soul for help is preferable to that to the Second Advent. And if, as seems likely, the latter connection be the intended one, the contextual argument is pressing. The fact that the same phrase occurs in the Psalter in the space-sense, and must therefore have been in familiar use in this sense by Paul and his readers alike, while the asyndetic, proverbial way in which it is introduced here gives it the appearance of a quotation, adds all that was needed to render this interpretation of it here certain."

Strack's Hebrew Grammar.[1]

BY PROF. E. C. BISSELL, D.D.

A TRANSLATION into English of the second edition of Professor Strack's Hebrew Grammar appeared near the close of the year 1885. The work has also been translated into French and Danish. It is published in this country by Westermann and Co., of New York, and sold for "three marks." This grammar takes the place of one prepared by J. H. Petermann for what is known as the Petermann Series of Elementary Grammars of the Oriental Languages, appearing in the year 1845, and again, unchanged except in title, in 1864. The present book is, however, an independent work of Professor Strack, and is based not only on an unusually thorough knowledge of the Hebrew language, but much practical experience in teaching it.

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[1] *Hebrew Grammar, with Exercise Literature and Vocabulary, by Hermann L. Strack, Ph.D., D.D.* 16mo, pp. 150, 67.

Having just conducted a class through the elements of Hebrew, making use of this grammar as one of several books of reference, I am prepared to speak of it from the point of view of an instructor.

It seems to me to be in many respects a manual of special excellence. Its definitions are clear and concise. In the amount of matter it contains, it preserves a happy mean between a too meagre and a too copious treatment. The points it most emphasizes are those of most importance to a beginner. In the statement of rules and principles the needful attention is given to existing limitations and exceptions. Pains are taken to explain difficult forms, and if there is more than one way of accounting for them, the fact is uniformly noted. The system of cross references to other parts of the grammar is full and admirable. An effort has been made to keep out of the grammar all forms that do not actually appear in the language.

The noun is more fully treated than in most primary grammars, twenty-three pages being devoted to it alone, against fifty-five to the verb. There are also more than twenty pages given exclusively to syntactical matter, besides a considerable amount in addition that is introduced in various sections here and there. In the dearth of material on this subject, not only in primary grammars but in most others, this will be to instructors a welcomed innovation. The sections on vowel changes, on the syllable, on the tone, including pause, and, in fact, the whole department of Orthography and Phonology, seem to me particularly good. The freshness of Strack's treatment of his subject and the critical nicety with which he handles some of the most difficult problems of Hebrew grammar, appear, to give an example, in his discriminating remarks, in several places, on the Hebrew text as edited by Baer and Delitzsch. A limited number of exercises for the translation of Hebrew and the application of grammatical principles is given, along with a Hebrew-English vocabulary, in the back part of the book.

It is here, perhaps, that the book is most open to criticism as a manual for beginners. The exercises are somewhat too limited, and might better have been placed in more direct connection with the subjects they were intended to illustrate. Judging it solely from a practical point of view, another defect is the failure to supply complete paradigms of the noun and verb. This lack, however, the author has met by publishing recently twenty-four supplementary pages, in which the paradigms are given, and, very properly, in a way to distinguish forms in common use from those that are rare or wholly wanting. He proposes also to add to the English edition

exercises for the translation of English into Hebrew. It would likewise facilitate the acquisition of the language if, in future editions, the transitions from one topic to another were to be more sharply indicated to the eye than is done in the present one. Would it not, moreover, be of advantage so to arrange the material that the treatment of the noun and verb should be in a measure blended together instead of considered at such length almost independently of one another, as is the case in this, and most other, Hebrew grammars?

Rainfall in Palestine.

THE following note on the above subject reached the Secretary too late to be added to the article by Rev. E. W. Rice, D.D., in the *Journal* for June: —

Since my article was prepared, I have received from Prof. George E. Post, of Beirut, meteorological tables showing the average rainfal at Beirut, for eleven and a half years, — June, 1874, to Dec. 31, 1885, — to be $35\frac{66}{100}$ inches. The greatest yearly rainfall (1877) was $51\frac{4}{100}$ inches, the least (1884) was $30\frac{14}{100}$ inches.